

REMARKS

The Examiner required restriction of one of the following inventions:

Group I: including claims 12, drawn to a method of adjusting suction wherein a simulation is run; or

Group II: including claims 13, drawn to a method of adjusting suction by a prediction during cutting; or

Group III: including claims 14 and 15, drawn to a method of adjusting suction during different stages of cutting the workpiece; or

Group IV: including claims 17 and 18, drawn to a suction adjusting apparatus wherein the suction amount adjustment means has relation storing means and further having adjustment amount displaying means; or

Group V: including claims 17 and 19, drawn to a drawn to a suction adjusting apparatus wherein the suction amount adjustment means has relation storing means and further having adjustment amount displaying means; or

Group VI: including claims 16 and 20, drawn to suction adjusting apparatus with a program for letting a computer adjust the suction.

Further, the Examiner notes that claims 11 and 16 will be examined with any elected group. Thus, as these claims are generic to all groups, upon allowance of claims 11 and 16, rejoinder of the remaining claims is requested.

Election

Applicant elects, with traverse, Group III including claims 11, 14, 15, and 16, drawn to a method of adjusting suction during different stages of cutting the workpiece.

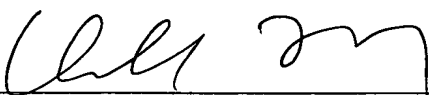
Applicant respectfully traverses this Restriction Requirement in view of the following remarks. The subject matter of claims 11 and 16 is directed to adjusting a suction state in consideration of a covered state with the sealing sheet, and is patentable over the prior art at least as cited in the International Search Report. Examination of each of the claimed groups is thus not expected to result in an undue burden on the Examiner. Further, rejoinder and allowance of each of claims 11-20 is respectfully requested.

For all of the above stated reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding restriction/election requirement and favorable allowance of all claims in the instant application are earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

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